

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-34 are cancelled.

New Claims 35-41 are added. New Claims 35-41 would be all of the claims remaining in the application if the instant amendment is entered. No new matter is added.

Discussion of Amendments

The specification is amended to insert a cross-reference to related applications after the title.

Claims 1 to 34 are cancelled and new Claims 35-41 are added. Support for new Claims 35-41 is found in the original specification as filed, for example in original Claims 1, 6, 7, and 8, Example 1 on page 8, at line 20, to page 12, at line 14, on page 2, at line 15, to page 3, at line 8, and on page 7, at lines 22-30.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 16-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly “being clearly anticipated by Caruso et al US 6,187,388 B1.”

Claims 16-34 are cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-15 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly “claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-15 of copending Application No. 09/463,116.”

Claims 1-15 are cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

Domestic Priority

Applicants note with pleasure the acknowledgement of their claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) and §§ 120 and/or 121.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicants deem rejection of Claims 1-34 overcome.

New Claims 35-41 are added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to promptly consider Claims 35-41, and pass any and all patentable claims to allowance.

Power of Associate Agent

Applicants enclose herewith a Power of Associate Agent authorizing the undersigned to act on Applicants' behalf.

***Petition For One (1) Month Extension Of Time
Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136
With Fee Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17***

Applicants enclose herewith a petition to the Commissioner for Patents for a one (1) month extension of time for reply to the Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The last day of the 1-month extended period for reply is September 28, 2003, which is four months from the mailing date of the Office Action. Applicants have also enclosed herewith authorization for the Commissioner to debit Applicants' deposit account for the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to deposit account number 23-0455.

The undersigned would welcome a telephone call from the Office to discuss any matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 29, 2003

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